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SOURCE Nan-fang Jih-pao.

WANG FENG OUTLINES PRESENT CONDITIONS,
OBJECTIVES FOR MINORITY NATIONALITY GROUPS

The following is a summary of the speech given by Wang Feng (1) /number in parentheses refers to appended characters/, chairman of the Committee of Nationalities Affairs, Northwest Military and Administrative Committee, at the first plenary session of the latter committee held on 21 July 1950.

Since the liberation, people's governments and all levels of the Chinese Communist Party in the Northwest have been pursuing a policy of racial equality as stipulated in the Common Program adopted at the CPPCC (Central People's Political Consultative Conference).

The following results have been obtained:

1. Minority nationality groups have been mobilized to render valuable assistance to the PLA in the swift elimination of the bandits Hu and Ma and in the fights to clean up local bandits and special agents, to restore social order, to safeguard life and property, and to create favorable conditions for rehabilitating production.
2. In accordance with the principle of racial equality, the Northwest Military and Administrative Committee and provincial people's governments have established people's coalition governments which include many nationalities, classes, and parties. Since these coalition governments have raised the administrative level of minority races, they have received enthusiastic support.
3. People's governments of all levels have trained more than 2,000 minority nationality cadres, and are continually selecting and training more cadres to hold important positions in leadership agencies.
4. People's governments of all levels have assisted in restoring production. For example, state-owned trading agencies have been carrying on fair and free trade with minority races by purchasing their native products such as skins, furs, intestines, fruits, herbs, and grain. This program has created the incentive to increase production in minority nationality areas.

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5. People's governments in all minority nationality areas took positive steps to eliminate racial differences and increase unity. They convoked many all-nationality people's delegates groups or goodwill meetings where many racial differences were discussed.

These activities have helped create a spirit of new relationships, mutual assistance, unity, and cooperation among racial groups. In the future we must continue to bring about closer unity among racial groups in the pursuance of reconstruction work.

In our work among minority nationality areas, we discovered many shortcomings and errors. Some of the important ones are as follows: There was not enough understanding or respect shown for local conditions. Some Han pure Chinese as distinguished from minority nationalities/ cadres disregarded actual conditions and persisted in reapplying the work experiences gained in Han areas. Many cadres showed impatience, used short cuts, and consciously or unconsciously maintained their racial superiority complex. Some cadres looked down on minority races as uncivilized and low class. Many cadres lacked discipline. They failed to pay sufficient attention to preparations.

Other cadres considered the customs of minority races as a mere detail of living. The personnel in some trading and tax agencies disregarded constructive ideas suggested by minority groups and failed to improve their working methods. In bringing about a certain reform, many cadres ignored the existence of mass consciousness in certain minority areas, and thereby implemented reform too soon or unsuitably. All of the cadres mentioned above were too far removed from the masses and persisted in the practices of the old society. All of these shortcomings and errors should be corrected in the future.

The job of facilitating various nationality programs in the Northwest is a tremendous one in the light of past experiences and with due consideration to the special nature of the economies, cultures, religious beliefs, customs, habits, tastes, and feelings of various racial groups. Because of this, our work objective should be carried out in an orderly fashion and should be pursued in the sequences generally applied in Han areas. First, it is necessary to take 3 to 5 years to train large numbers of cadres who will be assigned to work in minority nationality areas. We should then mobilize the masses to increase mutual friendship and unity within their own racial group as well as with other groups. Following that, we should proceed to develop economic and cultural enterprises and encourage all to work together to bring about a new democratic Northwest. We should elevate political consciousness of minority races by implementing needed reforms in accordance with principles of each racial group.

To realize such a program, the following 8-point objective should be carried out in the future:

1. Encourage minority races to continue their help of PLA and people's public security units in the fights against native bandits, special agents, and destructive elements to stabilize the social order and safeguard the people's livelihood.

2. Start widespread propaganda activities. Propagandize the policy of racial equality as stipulated in the Common Program adopted at the CPPCC; the regulations on racial policy by the relevant people's governments and the Northwest Military and Administrative Committee; the great historical personalities among minority nationals who achieved prominence in the field of labor, racial unity, and progress, and the aim, duties, policy, and methods used in helping minority nationalities in the Northwest. In carrying out propaganda work, the language of each racial group, and methods which appeal to each group should be used.

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3. In agricultural area where a single minority nationality lives, all administrative units which can be organized, such as hsiang, ch'u, and hsien governments, should effect self-governments immediately. In pastoral areas where a single minority nationality lives, the commissioner form of governments should be set up by the relevant provincial people's government on the basis of the existing organizations such as Mongol banners, Tibetan tribes, 1,000 households, 100 households etc. After democratic reforms have been completed, these governments may be changed into the autonomous form.

4. Restore and develop production enterprises. In agricultural areas, the stress should be principally on developing water conservation, on enlarging cultivated and seeded areas, and on improving agricultural techniques. Requisitioning methods and procedures should be simplified with regard to public grain responsibilities. In pastoral areas, state-owned trading agencies should continue to buy native products, and sell the daily necessities needed locally. Tax systems and methods of collection should be simplified. Steps should also be taken to promote antiepidemic diseases activities in pastoral areas. Minority nationalities living in Han areas should be protected. They should be encouraged to develop industry and commerce.

5. In regard to cultural and educational activities, the existing schools should be restored and redeveloped. Then, by using reliable methods, the present educational system and curriculum should be gradually improved. In political education, efforts should be concentrated in the beginning on the study of New Democracy, documents concerning the Central People's government, and the nationalities policy. In higher schools, the study of theories should be emphasized. People may be free to become members of any religious groups or participate in religious activities; people's governments will not interfere in such program. Efforts should be concentrated on fusing the cultures, arts, songs, and dances of racial groups, and the promotion of public health and motion-picture projects.

6. Endeavor to stop racial disputes and encourage unity among various racial groups. Watch out especially for racial disputes in areas where many racial groups live together. A slight dispute may result in damage of property and loss of lives. The methods of solving racial differences as practiced at present by people's governments of all levels are generally correct. But in trying to settle a specific incident, there is a need to study, in advance, the social and historical background of such a racial incident. After that, responsible representatives from parties involved should hold a conference to arrive at an amicable and permanent settlement. It is also necessary to make each racial group conscious of its failings. Only thus can the wranglings among races be gradually stopped and racial unity be increased. Such work should be linked with agriculture, animal husbandry, or other production activities and should not be carried on by itself.

7. The masses must be organized to carry on the above activities effectively. A large number of minority nationality cadres should be organized and trained. In addition to educating the cadres to increase their ability and continuing to select capable leaders to participate in other essential activities, there is still need for establishing cadre schools and training classes. Minority nationality cadres should be helped and supervised to do their work properly.

8. A concrete plan based on actual situations should be formulated for cadre studies. There is a need, at present, to make surveys and do research to understand various situations clearly. There is a need for overcoming, among cadres, the single-tracked working habits of the old society, the need of eliminating the racial superiority complex ingrained in the minds of many Han cadres. Han cadres should cooperate and help the work of minority nationality cadres. Minority nationality cadres should also help each other to bring about unity, mutual assistance, etc. To help the study program, the Committee of Nationalities Affairs has formulated the "Documents Concerning Cadre Studies in Minority Nationality Areas," and the "Things to be Remembered in Carrying on Cadre Activities in Minority Nationality Areas," which were submitted, approved, and promulgated by the Northwest Military and Administrative Committee.

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The eight-point objective described above should increase friendship and unity among nationality groups and should improve and elevate their economic, political, and cultural level. It should bring about a condition beneficial to creating a new democratic society in the Northwest. Under this single objective, everyone must strive to achieve unity among minority nationality groups.

CHARACTERS

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